

**REMARKS**

The Examiner has not indicated whether the drawings filed on May 31, 2001 have been accepted. Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner make such an acknowledgment.

The Examiner has attached to the Office Action a copy of Form PTO-1449 filed with Applicants' Information Disclosure Statement of May 31, 2001. The Examiner stroke through all the references cited on the Form, indicating that no translation or statement of relevancy has been made.

Applicants respectfully submit that sufficient statement of relevancy has been provided. In Applicants' Information Disclosure Statement of May 31, 2001, Applicants have included an explanation of the contents of these references, and an explanation of how the claims of the present invention differ from the prior art cited. For the Examiner's convenience, we attach herewith Applicants' Information Disclosure Statement of May 31, 2001 and Form PTO-1449.

Accordingly, the Examiner is respectfully requested to consider the cited references and return an initialed copy of Form PTO-1449.

In this Amendment, Claims 1-7, 9-14, 16-32, 34-44 and 46-48 have been amended to replace the phrase "resin sheet containing dispersed particles" and/or "resin sheet" with --liquid crystal cell substrate--. This amendment is supported by the specification at, for example, page 3, 2<sup>nd</sup> full paragraph.

Claims 1, 16, 21, 34, 38 and 46 have been amended to replace the phrase "a thermoplastic resin or a thermosetting resin" with --an epoxy resin--. Claims 9, 17, 18, 29-31, 34-36, 41-43 and 46-48 have been amended to replace the phrase "the resin constituting the base layer" with --the

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epoxy resin--. Claims 34, line 5 and 46, line 5, the word --epoxy-- has been added before “resin”. These amendments are supported by the specification at, for example, page 13, 1<sup>st</sup> full paragraph.

No new matter has been added and thus, entry of the Amendment is respectfully submitted to be proper. Upon entry of the Amendment, Claims 1-48 will be all the claims pending in the application.

In Paragraph No. 2 of the Office Action, Claims 1-4 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b), as allegedly being anticipated by Schreck et al (US 5,716,698).

Applicants respectfully submit that Claims 1-4 as amended is not anticipated by Schreck et al. In this Amendment, as mentioned above, Applicants have amended the present claims to further limit the resin for the base layer. Specifically, Claims 1-4 have been amended to replace the phrase “resin sheet containing dispersed particles” with --liquid crystal cell substrate--, and Claim 1 has been amended to replace the phrase “a thermoplastic resin or a thermosetting resin with --an epoxy resin--.

Schreck et al discloses a multi-layer film comprising a polyolefin and pigments (inorganic particles). However, Schreck et al does not disclose or suggest a liquid crystal cell substrate comprising a base layer containing an epoxy resin as presently claimed.

Accordingly, the Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider and withdraw the rejection.

In Paragraph No. 3 of the Office Action, Claims 16 and 17 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b), as allegedly being anticipated by Zeira et al (US 5,932,342).

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Applicants respectfully submit that Claims 16 and 17 as amended are not anticipated by Zeira et al.

Zeira et al teaches that the first optically clear material may be polyesters, polyolefins, acrylics, silicone polymers and elastomers, polystyrene, polycarbonate, polyamides, cellulose acetate, and cellulose acetate butyrate (column 4, lines 19-23).

However, Zeira et al does not disclose or suggest a liquid crystal cell substrate comprising a base layer containing an epoxy resin as presently claimed.

Accordingly, the Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider and withdraw the rejection.

In Paragraph No. 4 of the Office Action, Claims 16-18 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b), as allegedly being anticipated by Konno et al (US 5,607,764).

Applicants respectfully submit that Claims 16-18 as amended are not anticipated by Konno et al.

Konno et al discloses an optical diffuser comprising an optical diffusing layer containing an organic polymer binder and organic polymer particles, such as polypropylene, polymethyl methacrylate, and polystyrene as organic polymer particles (column 2, lines 60-62, Example 6). However, Konno et al does not disclose or suggest a liquid crystal cell substrate comprising a base layer containing an epoxy resin as presently claimed.

Accordingly, the Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider and withdraw the rejection.

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In Paragraph No. 5 of the Office Action, Claims 1-4 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b), as allegedly being anticipated by Landry et al (US 5,051,298).

Applicants respectfully submit that Claims 1-4 as amended are not anticipated by Landry et al.

Landry et al teaches filled polyacrylate and methacrylate compositions having silica particles dispersed therein (column 1, lines 6-10). However, Landry et al does not disclose or suggest a liquid crystal cell substrate comprising a base layer containing an epoxy resin as presently claimed.

Accordingly, the Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider and withdraw the rejection.

In Paragraph No. 6 of the Office Action, Claims 21-26 and 28 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a), as allegedly being unpatentable over Hallman et al (US 5,800,904) in view of Landry et al.

Applicants respectfully submit that Claims 21-26 and 28 as amended are not *prima facie* obvious over Hallman et al in view of Landry et al.

Hallman et al discloses a composite surface covering comprising a substrate, an inorganic wear layer and a support layer (Fig. 2). Hallman et al further discloses that the support layer may be any of the class of filled or unfilled organic polymeric materials that are typically used as support structures in the floor products industry, and some other support structures which are not generally considered to be useful as flooring candidates, but can be used as floor covers with an embossed inorganic wear layer, including highly filled polyester thermoset resins, filled acrylates

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such as corean, cements (including phosphate bonded materials), and metal plates and foils (column 7, lines 52-67).

However, Hallman et al does not disclose or suggest a liquid crystal cell substrate comprising a base layer containing an epoxy resin as presently claimed. Accordingly, the present invention is not *prima facie* obvious over Hallman et al in view of Landry et al, because Landry et al does not rectify the deficiencies of Hallman et al.

In view of the above, the Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider and withdraw the rejection.

In Paragraph No. 7 of the Office Action, Claims 9-11 and 14 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a), as allegedly being unpatentable over Konno et al in view of Landry et al.

Applicants respectfully submit that Claims 9-11 and 14 as amended are not *prima facie* obvious over Konno et al in view of Landry et al for the same reasons as set forth for the rejection of Konno et al, because Landry et al does not rectify the deficiencies of Konno et al.

Accordingly, the Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider and withdraw the rejection.

In Paragraph No. 8 of the Office Action, Claims 29-32 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a), as allegedly being unpatentable over Hallman et al in view of Landry et al and Konno et al.

Applicants respectfully submit that Claims 29-32 as amended are not *prima facie* obvious over Hallman et al in view of Landry et al and Konno et al for the same reasons as set forth for

the rejection over Hallman et al, because Landry et al and Konno et al do not rectify the deficiencies of Hallman et al.

Accordingly, the Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider and withdraw the rejection.

In Paragraph No. 9 of the Office Action, Claims 34-37 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a), as allegedly being unpatentable over Hallman et al in view of Konno et al.

Applicants respectfully submit that Claims 34-37 as amended are not *prima facie* obvious over Hallman et al in view of Konno et al for the same reasons as set forth for the rejection over Hallman et al, because Konno et al does not rectify the deficiencies of Hallman et al.

Accordingly, the Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider and withdraw the rejection.

In Paragraph No. 10 of the Office Action, Claims 5, 21-25 and 27 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a), as allegedly being unpatentable over Teraski et al (US 6,432,516B1) in view of Landry et al.

Applicants respectfully submit that Claims 5, 21-25 and 27 as amended are not *prima facie* obvious over Teraski et al in view of Landry et al.

Teraski et al discloses a moistureproof film comprising thin oxide layers on both sides of a hygroscopic resin layer, wherein the hygroscopic resin composition for the hygroscopic resin layer may be obtained by mixing a hygroscopic or non-hygroscopic resin, f.e., polyvinyl alcohol, polyolefins, polyester, polyvinyl chloride, and vinylidene chloride copolymers (column 8, lines 6 and 20-22), with a hygroscopic compound, such as, calcium chloride (column 8, lines 1-5).

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However, Teraski et al does not disclose or suggest a liquid crystal cell substrate comprising a base layer containing an epoxy resin as presently claimed. Landry et al does not rectify the deficiencies of Teraski et al.

Accordingly, the Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider and withdraw the rejection.

In Paragraph No. 11 of the Office Action, Claims 46-48 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a), as allegedly being unpatentable over Jones et al (US 5,963,284) in view of Konno et al.

Applicants respectfully submit that Claims 46-48 as amended are not *prima facie* obvious over Jones et al in view of Konno et al.

Jones et al disclose a diffusing layer comprising a host material and a plurality of diffusing particles, wherein the host material may be photoimageable Fuji color mosaic filter fluids and Fuji clear (CT) coat fluids (column 6, lines 52-54).

However, Jones et al does not disclose or suggest a liquid crystal cell substrate comprising a base layer containing an epoxy resin as presently claimed. Konno et al does not rectify the deficiencies of Jones et al.

Accordingly, the Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider and withdraw the rejection.

In Paragraph No. 12 of the Office Action, Claims 41-44 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a), as allegedly being unpatentable over Jones et al in view of Konno et al and Landry et al.

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Applicants respectfully submit that Claims 41-44 as amended are not *prima facie* obvious over Jones et al in view of Konno et al and Landry et al, for the same reasons as set forth for the rejection over Jones et al in view of Konno et al and Landry et al, because Landry et al does not rectify the deficiencies of Jones et al in view of Konno et al.

Accordingly, the Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider and withdraw the rejection.

In Paragraph No. 13 of the Office Action, Claims 38-40 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a), as allegedly being unpatentable over Jones et al in view of Landry et al.

Applicants respectfully submit that Claims 38-40 as amended are not *prima facie* obvious over Jones et al in view of Landry et al.

As discussed above, Jones et al does not disclose or suggest a liquid crystal cell substrate comprising a base layer containing an epoxy resin as presently claimed. Landry et al does not rectify the deficiencies of Jones et al.

Accordingly, the Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider and withdraw the rejection.

In Paragraph No. 14 of the Office Action, Claims 6, 7, 12, 13, 19 and 20 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a), as allegedly being unpatentable over Miyake et al (US 5,942,320) in view of Landry et al.

Applicants respectfully submit that Claims 6, 7, 12, 13, 19 and 20 as amended are not *prima facie* obvious over Miyake et al in view of Landry et al.



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Miyake et al discloses a barrier composite film having prominent gas barrier properties against water vapor, oxygen and aromatic compounds, comprising in this order, a base film, an anchor coat layer, an inorganic layer, and a coating layer containing a silane coupling agent and a barrier resin (abstract and column 1, lines 5-7).

Miyake et al further discloses that the base film layer may be made up of a variety of film-formable polymers, preferably polyolefins, polyesters and polyamides, in terms of transparency, mechanical strength, packaging quality and heat resistance (column 4, lines 41-67 and column 5, lines 29-41).

However, Miyake et al does not disclose or suggest a liquid crystal cell substrate comprising a base layer containing an epoxy resin as presently claimed. Landry et al does not rectify the deficiencies of Jones et al.

In view of the above, the Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider and withdraw the rejection.

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

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The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,



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PATENT TRADEMARK OFFICE

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**APPENDIX**  
**VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE**

**IN THE CLAIMS:**

**The claims are amended as follows:**

1. (Amended) A ~~resin sheet containing dispersed particles~~ liquid crystal cell substrate which comprises a base layer comprising a ~~thermoplastic resin or thermoset~~ an epoxy resin and dispersed therein an inorganic oxide having an average particle diameter of 1 to 100 nm, the amount of the inorganic oxide being 0.1 to 23% by weight based on the weight of the base layer.
2. (Amended) The ~~resin sheet containing dispersed particles~~ liquid crystal cell substrate of claim 1, which has a light transmittance of 88% or higher at  $\lambda = 550$  nm.
3. (Amended) The ~~resin sheet containing dispersed particles~~ liquid crystal cell substrate of claim 1, which has a coefficient of linear expansion of  $1.00E-4/^{\circ}C$  or lower as measured in the temperature range of  $100^{\circ}C$  to  $160^{\circ}C$ .
4. (Amended) The ~~resin sheet containing dispersed particles~~ liquid crystal cell substrate of claim 1, wherein the dimensional change of the resin sheet as calculated from the size thereof measured immediately after 20 minutes heating at  $150^{\circ}C$  and the size thereof measured immediately after 20 minutes heating at  $150^{\circ}C$  and subsequent 2 hours standing at room temperature is lower than +0.020%.

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5. (Amended) A ~~resin sheet containing dispersed particles~~ liquid crystal cell substrate which comprises the ~~resin sheet containing dispersed particles~~ liquid crystal cell substrate of claim 1 and an electrode formed thereon.

6. (Amended) A ~~resin sheet containing dispersed particles~~ liquid crystal cell substrate which comprises the ~~resin sheet containing dispersed particles~~ liquid crystal cell substrate of claim 1 and formed thereon a reflecting layer comprising a thin metal layer.

7. (Amended) The ~~resin sheet containing dispersed particles~~ liquid crystal cell substrate of claim 6, which has an oxygen permeability of  $0.3 \text{ cc/m}^2 \cdot 24\text{h} \cdot \text{atm}$  or lower.

9. (Amended) The ~~resin sheet containing dispersed particles~~ liquid crystal cell substrate of claim 1, wherein the base layer contains a diffuser dispersed therein which has a refractive index different from that of the epoxy resin constituting the base layer and has an average particle diameter of 0.2 to 100  $\mu\text{m}$ , the amount of the diffuser being 0.1 to 60% by weight based on the weight of the base layer.

10. (Amended) The ~~resin sheet containing dispersed particles~~ liquid crystal cell substrate of claim 9, wherein the difference in specific gravity between the diffuser and the resin constituting the base layer is 1 or smaller.

11. (Amended) The ~~resin sheet containing dispersed particles~~ liquid crystal cell substrate of claim 9, wherein the difference in refractive index between the diffuser and the resin constituting the base layer is 0.03 to 0.10.

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12. (Amended) A ~~resin sheet containing dispersed particles~~ liquid crystal cell substrate which comprises the ~~resin sheet containing dispersed particles~~ liquid crystal cell substrate of claim 9 and formed thereon a reflecting layer comprising a thin metal layer.

13. (Amended) The ~~resin sheet containing dispersed particles~~ liquid crystal cell substrate of claim 12, which has an oxygen permeability of  $0.3 \text{ cc/m}^2 \cdot 24\text{h} \cdot \text{atm}$  or lower.

14. (Amended) The ~~resin sheet containing dispersed particles~~ liquid crystal cell substrate of claim 9, wherein the base layer is an outermost layer and the outer surface of the base layer is smooth.

16. (Amended) A ~~resin sheet containing dispersed particles~~ liquid crystal cell substrate which comprises a base layer which is constituted of a ~~thermoplastic resin or a thermosetting~~ an epoxy resin and contains, dispersed in the resin, a diffuser which has a refractive index different from that of the resin and has an average particle diameter of 0.2 to 100  $\mu\text{m}$ , the amount of the diffuser being 200 parts by weight or smaller per 100 parts by weight of the resin constituting the base layer.

17. (Amended) The ~~resin sheet containing dispersed particles~~ liquid crystal cell substrate of claim 16, wherein the difference in specific gravity between the diffuser and the epoxy resin ~~constituting the base layer~~ is 1 or smaller.

18. (Amended) The ~~resin sheet containing dispersed particles~~ liquid crystal cell substrate of claim 16, wherein the difference in refractive index between the diffuser and the epoxy resin ~~constituting the base layer~~ is 0.03 to 0.10.

19. (Amended) A ~~resin sheet containing dispersed particles~~ liquid crystal cell substrate which comprises the ~~resin sheet containing dispersed particles~~ liquid crystal cell substrate of claim 16 and formed thereon a reflecting layer comprising a thin metal layer.

20. (Amended) The ~~resin sheet containing dispersed particles~~ liquid crystal cell substrate of claim 19, which has an oxygen permeability of  $0.3 \text{ cc/m}^2 \cdot 24\text{h} \cdot \text{atm}$  or lower.

21. (Amended) A ~~resin sheet containing dispersed particles~~ liquid crystal cell substrate which comprises a base layer comprising a ~~thermoplastic resin or a thermosetting an epoxy~~ resin and dispersed therein an inorganic oxide having an average particle diameter of 1 to 100 nm and an inorganic gas barrier layer, the amount of the inorganic oxide being 0.1 to 23% by weight based on the weight of the base layer.

22. (Amended) The ~~resin sheet containing dispersed particles~~ liquid crystal cell substrate of claim 21, which has a light transmittance of 85% or higher at  $\lambda = 550 \text{ nm}$ .

23. (Amended) The ~~resin sheet containing dispersed particles~~ liquid crystal cell substrate of claim 21, which has a coefficient of linear expansion of  $1.00\text{E-}4/^{\circ}\text{C}$  or lower as measured in the temperature range of  $100^{\circ}\text{C}$  to  $160^{\circ}\text{C}$ .

24. (Amended) The ~~resin sheet containing dispersed particles~~ liquid crystal cell substrate of claim 21, wherein the dimensional change of the resin sheet as calculated from the size thereof measured immediately after 20 minutes heating at  $150^{\circ}\text{C}$  and the size thereof measured immediately after 20 minutes heating at  $150^{\circ}\text{C}$  and subsequent 2 hours standing at room temperature is lower than +0.015%.

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25. (Amended) The ~~resin sheet~~ liquid crystal cell substrate of claim 21, wherein the inorganic gas barrier layer is made of a silicon oxide, in which the ratio of the number of oxygen atoms to that of silicon atoms is 1.5 to 2.0.

26. (Amended) The ~~resin sheet~~ liquid crystal cell substrate of claim 21, wherein the inorganic gas barrier layer is made of a silicon nitride, in which the ratio of the number of nitrogen atoms to that of silicon atoms is 1.0 to 4/3.

27. (Amended) The ~~resin sheet~~ liquid crystal cell substrate of claim 21, wherein the inorganic gas barrier layer has a thickness of 5 to 200 nm.

28. (Amended) The ~~resin sheet~~ liquid crystal cell substrate of claim 21, which has a water vapor permeability of  $10 \text{ g/m}^2 \cdot 24\text{h} \cdot \text{atm}$  or lower.

29. (Amended) The ~~resin sheet containing dispersed particles~~ liquid crystal cell substrate of claim 21, wherein the base layer contains a diffuser dispersed therein which has a refractive index different from that of the epoxy resin ~~constituting the base layer~~ and has an average particle diameter of 0.2 to 100  $\mu\text{m}$ , the amount of the diffuser being 0.1 to 60% by weight based on the weight of the base layer.

30. (Amended) The ~~resin sheet containing dispersed particles~~ liquid crystal cell substrate of claim 29, wherein the difference in specific gravity between the diffuser and the epoxy resin ~~constituting the base layer~~ is 1 or smaller.

31. (Amended) The ~~resin sheet containing dispersed particles~~ liquid crystal cell substrate of claim 29, wherein the difference in refractive index between the diffuser and the epoxy resin ~~constituting the base layer~~ is 0.03 to 0.10.

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32. (Amended) The ~~resin sheet containing dispersed particles~~ liquid crystal cell substrate of claim 29, wherein the base layer is an outermost layer and the outer surface of the base layer is smooth.

34. (Amended) A ~~resin sheet containing dispersed particles~~ liquid crystal cell substrate which comprises: a base layer which is constituted of ~~a thermoplastic resin or thermoset an epoxy resin~~ and contains, dispersed in the resin, a diffuser which has a refractive index different from that of the epoxy resin and has an average particle diameter of 0.2 to 100  $\mu\text{m}$ ; and an inorganic gas barrier layer, the amount of the diffuser being 200 parts by weight or smaller per 100 parts by weight of the epoxy resin ~~constituting the base layer~~.

35. (Amended) The ~~resin sheet containing dispersed particles~~ liquid crystal cell substrate of claim 34, wherein the difference in specific gravity between the diffuser and the epoxy resin ~~constituting the base layer~~ is 1 or smaller.

36. (Amended) The ~~resin sheet containing dispersed particles~~ liquid crystal cell substrate of claim 34, wherein the difference in refractive index between the diffuser and the epoxy resin ~~constituting the base layer~~ is 0.03 to 0.10.

37. (Amended) The ~~resin sheet containing dispersed particles~~ liquid crystal cell substrate of claim 34, which has a water vapor permeability of  $10 \text{ g/m}^2 \cdot 24\text{h} \cdot \text{atm}$  or lower.

38. (Amended) A ~~resin sheet containing dispersed particles~~ liquid crystal cell substrate which comprises a base layer comprising ~~a thermoplastic resin or a thermosetting an epoxy resin~~ and dispersed therein an inorganic oxide having an average particle diameter of 1 to



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100 nm and a color filter layer, the amount of the inorganic oxide being 0.1 to 23% by weight based on the weight of the base layer.

39. (Amended) The ~~resin sheet containing dispersed particles~~ liquid crystal cell substrate of claim 38, which has a coefficient of linear expansion of  $1.00\text{E-}4/^{\circ}\text{C}$  or lower as measured in the temperature range of  $100^{\circ}\text{C}$  to  $160^{\circ}\text{C}$ .

40. (Amended) The ~~resin sheet containing dispersed particles~~ liquid crystal cell substrate of claim 38, wherein the dimensional change of the resin sheet as calculated from the size thereof measured immediately after 20 minutes heating at  $150^{\circ}\text{C}$  and the size thereof measured immediately after 20 minutes heating at  $150^{\circ}\text{C}$  and subsequent 2 hours standing at room temperature is lower than  $+0.020\%$ .

41. (Amended) The ~~resin sheet containing dispersed particles~~ liquid crystal cell substrate of claim 38, wherein the base layer contains a diffuser dispersed therein which has a refractive index different from that of the epoxy resin constituting the base layer and has an average particle diameter of 0.2 to  $100\text{ }\mu\text{m}$ , the amount of the diffuser being 0.1 to 60% by weight based on the weight of the base layer.

42. (Amended) The ~~resin sheet containing dispersed particles~~ liquid crystal cell substrate of claim 41, wherein the difference in specific gravity between the diffuser and the epoxy resin constituting the base layer is 1 or smaller.

43. (Amended) The ~~resin sheet containing dispersed particles~~ liquid crystal cell substrate of claim 41, wherein the difference in refractive index between the diffuser and the epoxy resin constituting the base layer is 0.03 to 0.10.

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44. (Amended) The ~~resin sheet containing dispersed particles~~ liquid crystal cell substrate of claim 41, wherein the base layer is an outermost layer and the outer surface of the base layer is smooth.

46. (Amended) A ~~resin sheet containing dispersed particles~~ liquid crystal cell substrate which comprises: a base layer which is constituted of a ~~thermoplastic resin or thermoset~~ an epoxy resin and contains, dispersed in the resin, a diffuser which has a refractive index different from that of the epoxy resin and has an average particle diameter of 0.2 to 100  $\mu\text{m}$ ; and a color filter layer, the amount of the diffuser being 200 parts by weight or smaller per 100 parts by weight of the epoxy resin ~~constituting the base layer~~.

47. (Amended) The ~~resin sheet containing dispersed particles~~ liquid crystal cell substrate of claim 46, wherein the difference in specific gravity between the diffuser and the epoxy resin ~~constituting the base layer~~ is 1 or smaller.

48. (Amended) The ~~resin sheet containing dispersed particles~~ liquid crystal cell substrate of claim 46, wherein the difference in refractive index between the diffuser and the epoxy resin ~~constituting the base layer~~ is 0.03 to 0.10.